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Second Committee
Agenda item 87 (b)
Environment and sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Venezuela:* draft resolution

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Government of Ecuador in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the announcement made regarding the January 2003 opening of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon in Guayaquil, Ecuador,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/57/189.

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2. *Encourages* the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to continue their joint efforts aimed at the completion of the process to establish the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research centre at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to studying the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Encourages* the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, as well as with Internet information services, in order to ensure an effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to ensure appropriate consideration of measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events, like the El Niño phenomenon, in the process of the ten-year review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[2]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220, 55/197 and 56/194 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

[2] A/CONF.172/9, resolution I, annex I.